

October 2005 (1)

1. **Bidding Round:** Thirty four applications for support were received for the 06/07 and/or 07/08 bidding round. The proposals are currently being assigned reviewers by the Antarctic Research Committee (ARC). After the proposals have been letter reviewed the ARC will meet on December 15th to discuss the applications and all the reviews.

2. **Census for Antarctic Marine Life (CAML)** is one of NZ's major IPY initiatives. Over the next five years it intends to study the marine environments around Antarctica, through an international effort of coordinating up to 14 ship voyages from different nations. We are beginning to plan for NIWA's RV Tangaroa to be part of this programme. This is part of the parent 10-year project Census of Marine Life which focuses on the entire marine ecosystem. Shulamit will be the coordinator for the NZ end of CAML and Dr Don Robertson from NIWA has been designed as the Science Leader. See <http://www.caml.aq/> for more information and the CAML Science Statement.

3. **Science Review:** Antarctica New Zealand has just undertaken a review of the science that it has supported over the past 8 years. An international panel of reviewers visited Ant NZ on 13/14th October complete the review. This panel consists of: Prof. John White (Leader of Solid State Molecular Science Section, Research School of Chemistry, Australian National University), Dr Steve Nicol (Principal Scientist, Krill research, Australian Antarctic Division), Dr Phil DeCola (Lead scientist for the Atmospheric Composition Focus Area in NASA Science Mission Directorate, NASA), Ms Ruth Berry (Foundation for Research, Science and Technology). Ruth is lead person at the FRST for Antarctic related research. Prof. Bryan Storey, Director of Gateway Antarctica, University of Canterbury). Outcomes of the review will be expected in the next month or so.

4. **Ocean Survey 20/20:** As part of this initiative a Ross Sea continental shelf survey will be undertaken by Land Information New Zealand aboard the RV Tangaroa in February/March 2006. The Ministry of Fisheries and GNS are investigating the possibilities of adding a science component to this voyage. Click [here](#) for more info on OS 20/20

5. Dean has just returned from Europe as part of the NZ delegation under the newly created Science Promotion Fund: Researchers Outreach to Europe. The delegation took advantage of a Polar Regions and Quaternary Climate Conference to meet with researchers in Europe on climate change issues. The delegation also meet with EU science officials and discussed future cooperation possibilities in the future for Antarctic research. Others in the delegation were Dr Wendy Lawson, Dr Nancy Bertler and Prof. Blair Fitzharris. Click [here](#) for more info.

6. While away, Dean met with, Dr Chilingarov (Duma Deputy Speaker), Dr Aleksandr Bedritsky (Head of the Russian Agency for Hydrometeorology and President of the WMO) and Dr Valery Lukin (the **Russian Antarctic programme** leader) in Moscow to discuss potential science collaborations with the Russians as a follow-up to the draft NZ/Russian Cooperation Statement.

7. Shulamit has been made the coordinator of New Zealand's **National Antarctic Data Centre (NADC)** and will be responsible for collecting metadata on your Antarctic research for future seasons to enter into the Antarctic Master Directory (AMD). The goal is to also start collecting retrospective metadata on past research undertaken in Antarctica. Click [here](#) to view Antarctica New Zealand's portal into the AMD. Shulamit is currently in the process of updating the records.

8. The call for applications for the **2006 Postgraduate Antarctic Research Scholarships** has been made with leaflets and posters sent to all key people and institutions. These are sponsored by Antarctica New Zealand, New Zealand Post, Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter and Underwater World, and Helicopters New Zealand. The deadline for these is March 10 2006. Click [here](#) for more info.

9. **2006 Antarctic Conference** will be hosted by Victoria University of Wellington from 4-6th July 2006 .

10. **2006 SCAR Open Science Meeting** will be held from July 12-14th 2006 in Hobart. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31st December 2005. Click [here](#) for more information.

11. The **New Zealand Antarctic Bibliography** has had its annual update and can be accessed on the Ant NZ website [here](#).

November 2005 (2)

1. **Ocean Survey 20/20:** Dean is part of the Ocean Survey 20/20 Advisory and Coordinating panel. OS 20/20 is a whole of government approach looking at New Zealand's entire marine research plans for the next 15 years. Dean has been part of a sub-committee defining the values which will set the priorities for marine research over this timeframe. A bid to treasury will be made based on the projects defined for support over the next few years. The IPY Census of Antarctic Marine Life project has been raised as an important project which will be considered by the OS 20/20 Chief Executives Committee.

2. **NZ University Antarctic Alliance (NZUAA):** Dean represented Antarctica New Zealand at the NZUAA meeting hosted by Auckland University last month. The NZUAA has created first-draft profiles for each university. The profiles define the research currently underway at each university and the courses related to Antarctic studies. The NZUAA has started to look at capacity building within universities for Antarctic science and are looking at ways of better supporting early to mid-term researchers. The discussions on better integration were all excellent. Dean is looking at this new initiative of the NZUAA as a something that will make a real difference for the university researchers and help with university collaborations in the future.

3. Shulamit is in the process of **updating the web pages** of each of the events that we currently support and have supported in the recent past. This update includes making the event summary more user friendly, updating the recent publications, including web links applicable to the event and having a link to the metadata submitted for the event. She'll be in touch with PIs one by one for input/approval of the updates. Thanks to those of you who have already given their input.

4. **Communication of Antarctic science:** Is there an exciting outcome of your Antarctic science research that you would like to relay? Dean and Shulamit along with the Ant NZ communications team would be more than happy to help get your messages out there through various means. Although we try to get to you to see if there is any way we can help disseminate your findings, please don't hesitate to contact us also if there is anything we can help you with too.

Reminders:

5. **2006 Postgraduate Antarctic Research Scholarships** deadline is March 10 2006. Click [here](#) for more info.

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December 2005 (3)

1. OS 20/20: The Ocean Survey 20/20 Advisory and Coordinating Committee has created a prioritized list of projects that the government will look at as possible marine research investments over the next 15 years. The IPY (CAML) project has made the top 5 of the list of almost 60 projects. This means that there is a high likelihood of at least partial funding for the project coming from the OS 20/20 fund. The next stage of the OS 20/20 committee is to finalise the cabinet paper at the end of January with budget implications for the coming year.

2. Science Review: Dean has received a 1st draft of the Science Review Committee's recommendations. Antarctica New Zealand is looking at the information and will present the results to the Board of Antarctica New Zealand in February. After the Board has been briefed on the recommendations the document will be made public. This will be done in March 2006.

3. Bidding Round: The Antarctic Research Committee has just completed their meeting looking at all the proposals for logistic support in 2006/07 and 2007/08 seasons. There were 34 proposals reviewed by approximately 70 independent national and international scientists. The committee went through each proposal in detail and made final recommendations for support. Letters are being written and sent to all PIs before the Christmas break.

4. The deadline for submission of 2006 SCAR Abstracts has been extended to **February 13 2006**. The SCAR Open Science Meeting will be held from July 12-14th 2006 in Hobart. We're fortunate to have this conference so close to home, so hopefully many of you will be taking advantage of this. Click [here](#) for more information.

5. An LGP International workshop will be held in conjunction with the SCAR conference on July 10th. More information will be sent out in due course.

6. The Christchurch City Council is sponsoring a new Antarctic scholarship for University of Canterbury Postgraduate students. The award includes an annual stipend of \$10,000 plus logistics support from Antarctica New Zealand. This scholarship is administered by Gateway Antarctica. Click [here](#) for more information

7. A Non-Native Species in the Antarctic workshop is being convened by Antarctica New Zealand and Gateway Antarctica in April 2006. The aim of this workshop is to bring together relevant national and international experts to discuss the protection of Antarctica from non-native (animal and vegetal) species, in order to contribute to development of guidance for New Zealand officials and ultimately the Antarctic Treaty Parties on matters such as: best practice for Antarctic operations; consideration of the potential for introduction of non-native species during the environmental impact assessment process; controls or conditions placed on permitted activities by National Parties. This workshop is for invited participants. For more information, contact Neil Gilbert at Antarctica NZ.

8. Science Communication: Want to boost your skills as a science communicator? Obtain a recognised qualification with the Certificate in Technical Communication from The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand. This Certificate will provide you with the knowledge and skills to write effectively in the field of Science, and the ability to write clear and accessible documents. For more information click [here](#).

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11. 2nd Australia- New Zealand Climate Change & Business Conference: 20-21 February 2006, Adelaide, Australia. <http://www.climateandbusiness.com/>